



Contra Costa County

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 FROM: William B. Walker, MD, Health Services Director
 DATE: December 14, 2004
 SUBJECT: Authorization of a Disease Prevention Demonstration Project

SPECIFIC REQUEST (S) OR RECOMMENDATION (S) & BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

RECOMMENDATION:

1) AUTHORIZE the Health Services Department to develop and implement a local Disease Prevention Demonstration Project as authorized by SB 1159, allowing pharmacists to sell or furnish 10 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes at any one time to a person 18 years of age or older without a prescription providing that pharmacist works for a pharmacy that is registered with the Health Services Department in the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project.

2) DIRECT the Health Services Department to develop a project consistent with the legislation, including:

- Informing Contra Costa pharmacies of the project;
- Maintaining a directory of participating pharmacies;
- Securing a statement that the pharmacy will provide the required written or verbal counseling at the time of furnishing or sale of hypodermic needles under this project;
- Making available to the participating pharmacies written health education and referral information and materials that may be provided or reproduced to provide written or verbal counseling at the time of sale or furnishing of syringes under this project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The cost of implementation is not expected to be significant but would entail maintaining a list of registered pharmacies, providing referral information to those pharmacies and providing that data to support the evaluation of the project.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: **YES XX** NO SIGNATURE: _____
 _____ RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR _____ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE
 _____ APPROVE _____ OTHER

SIGNATURE(S): _____ ACTION OF
 BOARD ON _____ APPROVE AS RECOMMENDED _____ OTHER _____

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS
 _____ UNANIMOUS (ABSENT _____)
 AYES: _____ NOES: _____
 ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN AND ENTERED ON THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE DATE SHOWN.

ATTESTED _____
 JOHN SWEETEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

CONTACT: Christine Leivermann, 313-6786
 CC: William B. Walker, MD, CCHS Director, 20 Allen, Mtz
 Wendel Brunner, MD, Public Health Director, at
 597 Center Avenue, #200, Mtz

BY _____, DEPUTY

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 4900 individuals in Contra Costa are estimated to have been infected with HIV. Of that number, more than half have been diagnosed with AIDS. More than 23% of people currently living with AIDS in Contra Costa attribute their infection to injection drug use. Among women living with AIDS in Contra Costa, 45.6% identify injection drug use as the mode of transmission. Injection drug use is also a significant transmission route among those diagnosed with HIV, accounting for 36% of the reported HIV infections in women.

The United States Public Health Service recommends that individuals who inject drugs use a new, sterile syringe for each injection to prevent the transmission of blood-borne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis C.

On July 13, 2004, the Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to support the passage of Senate Bill 1159 (Vasconcellos) to allow for the development of a time-limited demonstration project that would allow a participating pharmacist to sell or furnish up to 10 syringes without a prescription to an adult. On September 20, 2004, this bill was chaptered by the Secretary of State. A resolution from the Board of Supervisors is required to establish an SB 1159 program in a county.

For the period commencing January 1, 2005, and ending December 31, 2010, this resolution would authorize the Health Services Department to develop and implement a local Disease Prevention Demonstration project that will allow pharmacists to furnish or make available for sale 10 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes at any one time to a person 18 years of age or older without a prescription providing that pharmacist works for a pharmacy that is registered for the Disease Prevention Demonstration project.

The Health Service Department will report back on the status of this project, including actions to inform pharmacies, law enforcement and other agencies, the number of participating pharmacies, and other pertinent information.